

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A processor-implemented document display system, comprising:

~~document storage means for storing a group of documents
exchanged via a network;~~

means for extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents
in [[the]] a group of documents;

~~related information storage means for storing the relationship; and~~
virtual document generation means for:

~~fetching~~ selecting the ~~extracted~~ relationship, the group of
documents associated with the relationship, and an expansion
condition for each document of the ~~documents~~ group of
documents;

forming a section group comprising that includes the
group of documents selected according to the ~~extracted~~
relationship; and

generating a virtual document from the group of
documents by mapping the contents of the documents within
the section group, and by combining the documents into the
virtual document;

identifying an association between the documents in a thread in the virtual document, as a tree structure; and selectively realizing the expansion condition of the thread in the virtual document, based on the tree structure, regardless of the content of the virtual document.

~~wherein the documents within the virtual document are displayed according to the expansion condition associated with the documents.~~

2. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the virtual document generation means forms the section group by embedding a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

3. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the related information storage means stores information of a parent document related to a document read from the document storage means.

4-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship.

22. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a thread; and
wherein the group of documents form a message.

23. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 22, further comprising an expansion condition storage unit for storing an expansion condition of the message, wherein the virtual document generation unit generates a section by fetching an expansion condition of the message from the expansion condition storage unit.

24. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 23, further comprising a user interactive processing unit for accepting an expansion request to a header from a user, wherein the virtual document generation unit is used to add the message to the virtual document on the basis of the expansion request accepted by the user interactive processing unit.

25. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 23, wherein the documents in the messages comprise a collection of documents that are unscheduled for editing.

26. (Currently amended) A processor-implemented document display method, comprising:

~~storing a group of documents exchanged via a network;~~

extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents in [[the]]

a group of documents;

~~storing the relationship;~~

fetching ~~selecting~~ the extracted relationship, the group of documents ~~associated with the relationship~~, and an expansion condition for each document of the ~~documents~~ group of documents;

forming a section group ~~comprising that includes~~ the group of documents selected according to the ~~extracted~~ relationship;

generating a virtual document ~~from the group of documents by mapping the contents of the documents within the section group, and by combining the documents into the virtual document;~~

identifying an association between the documents in a thread in the virtual document, as a tree structure; and

selectively realizing the expansion condition of the thread in the virtual document, based on the tree structure, regardless of the content of the virtual document.

~~displaying the documents within the virtual document according to the expansion condition associated with the documents.~~

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein forming the section group comprises embedding a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein storing the relationship comprises storing information of a parent document related to a document read from the group of documents.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a thread; and
wherein the group of documents form a message.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, further comprising storing an expansion condition of the message; and
wherein generating the virtual document comprises generating a section by fetching an expansion condition of the message.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 31, further comprising accepting an expansion request to a header from a user; and
adding the message to the virtual document on the basis of the accepted expansion request.

33. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the documents in the messages comprise a collection of documents that are ~~scheduled~~ unscheduled for editing.

34. (Currently amended) A computer-program product having executable codes stored on a ~~computer-usable~~ computer readable medium for displaying a document, comprising:

~~program code for storing a group of documents exchanged via a network;~~

program code for extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents in ~~[[the]]~~ a group of documents;

~~program code for storing the relationship;~~

program code for ~~fetching~~ selecting the ~~extracted~~ relationship, the group of documents associated with the relationship, and an expansion condition for each document of the ~~documents~~ group of documents;

program code for forming a section group ~~comprising that includes~~ the group of documents selected according to the ~~extracted~~ relationship;

program code for generating a virtual document from the group of documents by mapping the contents of the documents within the section group, and by combining the documents into the virtual document;

program code for identifying an association between the documents in a thread in the virtual document, as a tree structure; and

program code for selectively realizing the expansion condition of the thread in the virtual document, based on the tree structure, regardless of the content of the virtual document.

~~program code for displaying the documents within the virtual document according to the expansion condition associated with the documents;~~

35. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the program code for forming the section group embeds a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

36. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the program code for storing the relationship stores information of a parent document related to a document read from the group of documents.

37. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship.